

What is claimed:

1. A device for spreading apart a body cavity during diagnostic or surgical  
5 procedures comprising:

pivotally connected cross arms having forward end portions with plurality of  
blades and rearward end portions with hand grips, the connection between said cross  
arms permitting pivotal movement therebetween and a predetermined longitudinal  
relative shifting of said cross arms, wherein said plurality of blades are adapted to spread  
10 apart the body cavity during diagnostic or surgical procedures; and

an illumination device, said illumination device attached to said pivotally  
connected cross arms, wherein said illumination device provides illumination to the body  
cavity during diagnostic or surgical procedures.

15 2. The device according to claim 1 further comprising an irrigation channel,  
said irrigation channel attached to said pivotally connected cross arms, wherein said  
irrigation channel provides irrigation to the body cavity during diagnostic or surgical  
procedures.

20 3. The device according to claim 2 wherein said irrigation channel comprises  
a suction catheter, said suction catheter removes fluids from the body cavity during  
diagnostic or surgical procedures.

4. The device according to claim 1 wherein said illumination device is  
25 removably attached to said pivotally connected cross arms.

5. The device according to claim 2 wherein said irrigation channel is  
removably attached to said pivotally connected cross arms.

6. The device according to claim 1, further comprising a locking device connected to said cross arms wherein said locking device holds said cross arms in an opened position.

5 7. The locking device according to claim 6 wherein said locking device holds said cross arms in an opened profile incrementally over an angular range of pivotal movement of said cross arms.

8. The device according to claim 1 wherein said plurality of blades comprise  
10 at least two flexible blades.

9. The device according to claim 8 wherein said plurality of blades are connected to each other by an elastomeric membrane.

15 10. The device according to claim 8 wherein said flexible blades are made from an elastomeric material.

11. The device according to claim 1 wherein said device is reusable.

20 12. A device for spreading apart a vaginal canal during diagnostic or surgical procedures comprising:

pivotally connected cross arms having forward end portions with plurality of blades and rearward end portions with hand grips, the connection between said cross arms permitting pivotal movement therebetween and a predetermined longitudinal  
25 relative shifting of said cross arms, wherein said plurality of blades are adapted to spread apart the vaginal canal during diagnostic or surgical procedures; and

an illumination device, said illumination device attached to said pivotally connected cross arms, wherein said illumination device provides illumination to the vaginal canal during diagnostic or surgical procedures.

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13. The device according to claim 12 further comprising an irrigation channel, said irrigation channel attached to said pivotally connected cross arms, wherein said irrigation channel provides irrigation to the vaginal canal during diagnostic or surgical procedures.

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14. The device according to claim 13 wherein said irrigation channel comprises a suction catheter, said suction catheter removes fluids from the vaginal canal during diagnostic or surgical procedures.

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15. The device according to claim 12 wherein said illumination device is removably attached to said pivotally connected cross arms.

16. The device according to claim 13 wherein said irrigation channel is removably attached to said pivotally connected cross arms.

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17. The device according to claim 12, further comprising a locking device connected to said cross arms wherein said locking device holds said cross arms in an opened position.

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18. The locking device according to claim 17 wherein said locking device holds said cross arms in an opened profile incrementally over an angular range of pivotal movement of said cross arms.

19. The device according to claim 12 wherein said plurality of blades  
25 comprise at least two flexible blades.

20. The device according to claim 12 wherein said plurality of blades are connected to each other by an elastomeric membrane.

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21. The device according to claim 19 wherein said flexible blades are made from an elastomeric material.

22. The device according to claim 12 wherein said device is reusable.

23. A method for spreading and holding open a vaginal canal while providing  
5 illumination and irrigation to the vaginal canal during diagnostic or surgical procedures,  
the method comprising the steps of:

inserting a device comprising pivotally connected cross arms having forward end  
portions with plurality of blades and rearward end portions with hand grips, the  
connection between said cross arms permitting pivotal movement therebetween and a  
10 predetermined longitudinal relative shifting of said cross arms; an illumination device,  
said illumination device attached to said pivotally connected cross arms; and an irrigation  
channel, said irrigation channel attached to said pivotally connected cross arms;

moving said plurality of blades away from each other spreading the vaginal canal  
open; and  
15 illuminating the vaginal canal with said illumination device during the diagnostic  
or surgical procedures.

24. The method according to claim 23 further comprising the step of irrigating  
the vaginal canal with said irrigation channel during the diagnostic or surgical  
20 procedures.

25. The method according to claim 23 wherein said device further comprises a  
locking device connected to said cross arms.

25 26. The method of claim 25 wherein said locking device holds said plurality  
of blades in an open position.